

THE HOSPITAL OF THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH
66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

March 6, 1947

Mr. Joshua Lederberg
Osborn Botanical Laboratory
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Lederberg:

I was interested to hear of your results with desoxyribo-nuclease. As you indicate, the important point now is whether the enzyme was active under the conditions that you used. At concentrations in the range which you employed, there should be little or no difficulty in demonstrating an effect of the enzyme on viscous solutions of desoxyribonucleic acid, given the proper conditions of pH and magnesium ion activation. If, however, you have any doubt in your mind about the activity of the preparation after exposure to the E. coli culture, we would be happy to test it for you here.

Apparently the enzyme acts very readily on desoxyribo-nucleoprotein. Perhaps it is dependent on the fact that the combination between the nucleic acid and the protein is loose enough so that some free nucleic acid is always present. However, one can take a precipitate of nucleohistone, suspended in a buffer in which it is insoluble, and demonstrate a rapid effect by the addition of desoxyribonuclease.

I am forwarding under separate cover the reprints which you requested.

Sincerely yours,



Maclyn McCarty, M. D.

MM:EH